

UTAH. Most abundant from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the White Mountains.

Var. **pallens** var. nov. Planta 3–8 dm. alta, culmis saepe scabris; spicis cylindricis 1–1.8 cm. longis, squamis viridibus margine fulvis vel flavescentibus.—NOVA SCOTIA, peat bogs, North Sydney, July 11, 1883 (*J. Macoun*): MAINE, Arbor Vitae swamps, Presque Isle, July 12, 1902 (*Williams, Collins, & Fernald*); Arbor Vitae swamp, Blaine (*Fernald*, no. 2038); bog, Crystal, June 24, 1898 (*Fernald*, no. 2036); sphagnous swamp, Sangerville, July 1, 1895 (*Fernald*, no. 254); Cedar swamp, Buckfield, July 1, 1878 (*J. A. Allen*, no. 21a.): NEW HAMPSHIRE, Tuckerman's Ravine, July 11, 1895 (*J. R. Churchill*); Crawford Path, Mt. Clinton, July 18, 1895 (*E. & C. E. Faxon*): VERMONT, Burlington, June 15, 1896 (*A. J. Grout*); Cedar swamp, Fair Haven, June 27, 1899 (*W. W. Eggleston*): MASSACHUSETTS, Washington, Berkshire Co., July 5, 1859 (*W. Boott*): CONNECTICUT, sphagnous swamp, Norfolk, June 14, 1904 (*C. H. Bissell*): NEW YORK, Big Square Pond, Adirondack Mts., July 2, 1899 (*Rowlee, Wiegand, & Hastings*); Big Swamp, Oriskany (*Knieskern*): MICHIGAN, Washington (*D. Cooley*); deep swamp, Lansing, July 5, 1886 (*L. H. Bailey*, no. 101), June 24, 1892 (*C. A. Davis*); Howell Junction, June 10, 1890 (*C. F. Wheeler*): MINNESOTA, Minneapolis, July, 1886 (*H. M. Simmons*): BRITISH COLUMBIA, head of Deadman's River, June 21, 1889 (*J. M. Macoun*).

GRAY HERBARIUM.

INTUITION AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR REFERENCE.

FRANK SHIPLEY COLLINS.

WHEN a new genus is proposed, it is usual for the author to indicate the derivation of the new name; and in manuals, floras, etc., these derivations are often given for all the genera. Some authors, however, have neglected to give any explanation of their new names, so that only more or less successful guesses can be made in subsequent works. But when the later writer depends, as a rule, on his intuitions, a comparison with the original description may show a curious difference, as seen in the two cases following.

Among the few algae mentioned in Provancher, *Flore Canadienne*,

we find a reference to a quite rare genus of fresh water, *Thorea*; it is doubtful if the plant the author had in mind really belongs to this genus; but the reference is not without interest in another way. The genus is noted, p. 760, as follows: — “*Thorée*, *Thorea*, Bory. (Allusion au dieu Thor des Scandinaves, qu’on représentait velu, comme les rameaux de cette plante.)” Such curious derivations of botanical names are not unknown, but a reference to the original description by Bory de St. Vincent, *Annales du Muséum*, Vol. XII, p. 126, 1808, shows a dedication to the discoverer, Dr. Thore, of the town of Dax, an excellent botanist, author of a local flora, etc. Now nothing is more common than neglecting to look up the original description of a plant you are discussing, but what a powerful imagination the Abbé Provancher must have had; or did he have some trusted but untrustworthy friend, with no respect for the cloth?

Another case of quite a different character, where an originally romantic name is reduced to most ordinary prose, can be found in connection with the genus *Pandorina*. All algologists know the *Sylloge Algarum* of De Toni; a compilation in systematic order of the descriptions of all recognized species of algae, with references and synonyms. It is a book that no working algologist can be without, and indeed, it is a most useful index; the plan is excellent, but there are so many inaccuracies, that one sometimes is reminded of the remark of the ancient Roman about the women; “there is no living without them, nor with them.”

The work is in Latin, and the derivation of *Pandorina* is given, “*pas*, totus, *dora*, vestis detracta.” The original description is not easy to find, being in the *Encyclopédie Methodique*, published in various series with all sorts of titles and subtitles; it is in the *Histoire Naturelle de Zoophytes*, vol. II, p. 600, 1824, and translated, reads, “Genus of microscopic organisms, type of the singular family of *Pandorinae*, in the order of the *Gymnopodinae*. The living molecules of which are composed the beings that we here include, are contained in a common envelope, within which they dwell, either independent of each other, or else in motile groups, still in the interior of the common envelope. This common envelope reveals, by its transparency, the strange mysteries of an organization where each individuality persists; that is to say, where the molecule seems to exercise a life of its own, while at the same time it co-operates in the general life. But as, when the box of Pandora opened to spread over

the earth what was contained in it, so here when the general envelope that imprisons the contained molecules is broken, the latter spread in every direction in virtue of a volition pertaining to each one of the globules, now become free. The discovery of such phenomena filled with wonder the first to observe them, and every one who sees them for the first time partakes of the same feeling of surprise."

It is apparently not considered good form for a botanist to pay much attention to aesthetic or sentimental matters in his scientific work; but it is to be hoped it will not be considered necessary to suppress what older authors may have done of this kind.

MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS.

RECORDS OF THE CONNECTICUT BOTANICAL SOCIETY,— I.

E. B. HARGER, Cor. Secr.

THE CONNECTICUT BOTANICAL SOCIETY held four field meetings during the summer of 1905 at Salisbury, Grants, Stratford and Groton.

The first of these was a two-day excursion to Salisbury under the guidance of Mrs. C. L. Phelps. The first day was spent in a trip by wagon from Canaan to Salisbury. Among other points of interest was the original New England station for *Wolffia*. The second day offered the choice of limestone or mica slate country and among the interesting plants noted, were *Rosa blanda*, Ait., *Carex Grayii*, Carey, *Arisaema Dracontium*, Schott., and *Arceuthobium pusillum*, Peck.

The second excursion was on July 9th to see *Rhododendron maximum*, L. in bloom in a swamp near the little station of Grants not far from Winsted. The party was guided by Messrs. Weatherby and Bissell, who had explored the region in advance and had pacified the owner of the swamp by a promise of payment for the proposed trespass. All felt repaid for the outlay of one dollar for the party when the *Rhododendron* was found to be in the full splendor of its bloom. During the trip Mrs. Phelps discovered the second station in the state for *Mitella nuda*, L., and Mr. Bissell collected a quantity of *Carex tribuloides*, Wahl. var. *reducta* Bailey not before reported from the state. Besides these, the members from the southern part of the state were